The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives a brief summary of important matters affecting labor, occuring in the industrial, legislative and judicial fields, and such other information that will benefit the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR
WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

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AGITATE!
EDUCATE!
ORGANIZE!

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WILL EXCESSIVE PROFITS ESCAPE? WHY STOCK DIVIDENDS ARE ISSUED

Washington, Nov. 11.—With ections over and another session congress looming, the legis- tive decks are being cleared for ne of the greatest non-partisan t-and-dog fights that has been aged by national lawmakers for any a year.

Other questions, such as the ship bsidy and farm loans, will fur- sh fireworks, but these will be n wheels compared to the sky ckets, bombs and flaming Niag- as that the people will behold if is seriously proposed to levy on ealth.

The country faces an ever-in- easing deficit which cannot be ncealed by skilled accountancy. he common folks have been ueezed about dry and the new riff law shows no indication of rcing the walls of the treasury bulge because of increased stoms receipts. This situation causing some lawmakers to look large incomes and inordinate ofits. The moneybags "sense" is attack, and while screaming at "furriners" are plotting to reck the constitution, word is be- g quietly passed to block the at- ck by declaring stock dividends.

To understand how the stock vidend works, let it be assumed at a $10,000,000 corporation has ofits of $10,000,000 piled up. hese profits are "velvet." They e outside of preferred dividends d all other charges. These ofits are proof that the corporation has made unreasonable charges on the public. If the corporation declares huge cash dividends the attention of the public will be called to these vast profits and stockholders, who already have large incomes, will have to give a large portion of their profits to the government, under the income tax law. The remainder of the cash dividend would be reinvested, of course, by these stockholders.

To avoid the income tax, and at the same time have their profits reinvested, the stock dividend has been invented. Through this system the corporation divides among its stockholders an additional $10,000,000 worth of stock and turns the $10,000,000 profits into "capital account," or back into the business.

The corporation now has a capitalization of $20,000,000 and future profits can be spread over a larger amount of stock without attracting attention.

The system is not favored by the little stockholders, who would rather have the cash, but stock dividends are of value to the corporation's "insiders," whose problem is to get hold of the cash and at the same time avoid heavy income tax charges that are levied with increasing severity on incomes from $30,000 up.

The United States supreme court legalized the stock dividend. The court ruled that a stock dividend is not cash.

ENTS AND STABLES ARE MINERS' HOMES

Johnstown, Penn., Nov. 11.—harges of striking miners against e Berwind-White coal company ve been confirmed by testimony ven our committee," said David rshfield, chairman of the New rk city committee that was ap- inted by Mayor Hylan to investi- te conditions under which the al for New York city's transpor- tion system is mined.

"Somerset county is controlled dily and politically by a coal cor- ration of which E. J. Berwind is e moving power," said Mr. Hirsh- ld. "The same E. J. Berwind is airman of the board of directors the interboro rapid transit com- ny of New York and is a direc- r of the Pennsylvania railroad stem, which hauls the coal from e mines."

In supporting his claim that coal ould not be bought from coal ners "who do not give the iners a fair living and a square al," Mr. Hirshfield said:

"The great Berwind-White inter- ts seem to have used some 4,000 en's bodies and souls to build up r themselves an industrial autoc- cy. The committee listened to ories of hardships endured by the iners and their families since pril 6, when the men could no nger endure the sting of the cor- ration lash.

"We have seen in the tents, in e hen coops, and in the stables here the miners and their families ught shelter after having been icted from their homes by the al and iron police, hungry babies d women whose feet were bare d bleeding and whose limbs were inly clad.

"Scores of these persons, poverty- ricken and unable to go through e coming winter unless help is ven them, poured out such tales suffering and mistreatment as ould melt any heart except that the stony bosom of a coal baron."

RECALL PICKET DECISION.

Washington, Nov. 11.—A stock vidend of 18 per cent by Ameri- n steel foundries recalls the cent anti-picketing decision by e United States supreme court.

American steel foundries is a New rsey corporation and cut wages its Granite City, Ill., plant. The orkers struck and the company cured an injunction from Federal dge Humphrey, who outlawed cketing and declared that the ranite City central body is an legal organization. This stone-age uling was reversed by the federal ourt of appeals. The company car- ed the case to the United States preme court, which ruled, in ef- ect, that picketing will be per- itted if done under the eye of the ourt. Chief Justice Taft suggested at one picket at each factory gate hould be sufficient.

OMPEL EMPLOYES TO SAVE.

Philadelphia, Nov. 11.—A local ewspaper explains a compulsory ving plan enforced by a group of ublic utilities operating in northern ansas. This paternalistic scheme rovides that workers must save t least 10 per cent of their earn- ngs. They are not compelled to ave, according to the story, but an employe fails to do so the boss ets the reckless spendthrift an- ther job. One employer says:

"We do not mean to discharge an mploye outright, but failure to omply with these plans means that e obtain for him employment with nother concern, and then it is his hoice for acceptance."

BUILDING COSTS GO UP.

Washington, Nov. 11.—The level of holesale prices of building mate- ial rose 16.1 per cent between arch and September, the season of tive construction, according to a ation-wide survey by the depart- ent of labor. The survey covered l principal markets and materials, ncluding lumber, brick, steel, ce- ent and hardware.

PROFIT IN AUTOS.

New York, Nov. 11.—The Moon otor car company reports a clear rofit of $326,478 for the three onths ended September 30. At this ate the company, in one year, ould make the comfortable profit f $1,265,912 after all charges and referred dividends have been paid.

Anti-Union Coal Owners Announce Huge Profits

Philadelphia, Nov. 11.—In advertising merely "as a matter of record" a 7 per cent bond issue that has been distributed to "insiders," the Logan county (W. Va.) coal corporation says it made a clear profit of $495,000 during the first eight months of this year.

The advertisement does not state the amount of money contributed to the Logan coal operators' association for the purpose of governing Logan county, smashing the Miners' union and railroading to the penitentiary as many coal miners as possible under so-called "treason" charges.

At the miners' trials at Charles Town, W. Va., Judge Woods ordered coal owners' attorneys to abandon their prosecuting role, and turn this function over to the prosecuting attorney of that county.

The miners showed that in four previous trials the Logan coal operators' association paid nearly $35,000 for attorneys' fees, witness' fees, guards and other expenses.

JUDGE AIDS REACTION.

Chicago, Nov. 11.—The new state constitution, backed by the plunderbund of this state, is urged by a special committee of which Judge Carter of the state supreme court is chairman. The constitution is most vicious, declares Illinois organized labor, which is appealing for its defeat on December 12 next. The attempt of plunderbund to sanctify this reactionary measure by having a member of the state supreme court plead its cause is used by the workers to show the lengths reaction will go.

The workers say that if the proposed constitution is adopted the judiciary will be the rulers of Illinois. The grants of power extended to the courts under the new act are far greater than ever suggested in any other American state and even greater than any judicial power exercised in any country in the world since the middle ages.

MINERS' WAGE IS LOW.

Windber, Pa., Nov. 11.—The committee appointed by Mayor Hylan to investigate conditions at strike-bound properties of the Berwind-White company was told that wages average from $20 to $45 for two weeks' work.

Every miner who appeared before the committee told the same story of oppression, eviction, company houses and company stores. Prices at company stores range 10 to 20 per cent higher than the independent stores.

"I made enough money to exist on, but not enough to really live on," said John Dudak. "I have never made enough to save any money. Often I have drawn $1 in cash on pay day, $1 in cash for two weeks' work. The remainder went to the company for my rent and groceries."

The Berwind-White company supplies coal for the New York city subway system.

CHEAP PATERNALISM.

Chicago, Nov. 11.—The Pullman company announces that its "free" life insurance for employes whose annual wage is $3,000 or less will become effective December 1. The company withholds the right to say upon whom this blessing shall be bestowed.

This cheap paternalism is linked up with the Pullman company "union," which is intended to offset the increase of trade unionism.

In a recent statement President Gompers of the A. F. of L. showed that if the Pullman concern can enforce its company "union" this will supercede bona fide trade unionism in negotiating with the company under the transportation law.

MANY AUTO DEATHS.

Washington, Nov. 11.—There were 10,168 deaths by automobiles and other motor vehicles, excluding motorcycles, in 1921 in this country, according to the census bureau. California led all states in the death rate, while among the cities of 100,000 or more population, Los Angeles led.

GIVES 'EM EXTRA STOCK.

Pittsburgh, Pa., Nov. 11.—The Union natural gas company has declared its usual dividend and an extra 75 per cent stock dividend. The capital stock is increased to $20,000,000.

"SHORTAGE-OF-LABOR" CRY IS LOW WAGE PROPAGANDA

Government Ships Employ Chinese Subsidy Bill Supports Disloyal Plan

San Francisco, Nov. 11.—Chinese, in increasing numbers, are manning government owned passenger and freight vessels, declared Andrew Furuseth, president of the International Seamen's union, in a letter to President Harding.

In protesting against this Chinafying of the American merchant marine, the trade unionist reminded the chief executive of the historic fact that a nation's maritime power depends not upon ships, but upon its seafaring people.

"A brief analysis of the subsidy bill should prove to you that it expressly permits the employment of Chinese and other Orientals in the steward's department of each subsidized vessel," said President Furuseth. "Of course, you will appreciate that the steward's department in passenger vessels usually constitutes the majority of the vessel's crew.

"It has been claimed by spokesmen for the shipping board that Americans cannot be found to serve in the steward's department of American ships. This is a claim based upon imagination only. Americans do not and will not shirk from any honest toil if conditions are tolerable. To be sure, the American boy has refused to work, eat and sleep with Chinese coolies, and this is exactly what certain ship owners and managers expect him to do.

"We are convinced that the most liberal subsidizing will never create a genuine American merchant marine. This can only be done by the development of a personnel at least of equal skill and efficiency with the personnel of any competing nation. We feel that highly trained, skilled and efficient American crews are the essential factors to the future of our merchant marine. Yet the tendency for the past two years, at least, has been in the opposite direction. Men in high authority have made it their business to discourage efficiency, to mock at skill and to ridicule proper training of young native Americans.

"The inevitable result of such a policy spells failure for America's future upon the sea.

"Native and naturalized Americans who so gladly responded to the call of the sea when the submarines were creating havoc in the North Atlantic have virtually all been driven into other occupations, and the exodus still continues.

"We call attention to this distressing state of affairs because the lessons of history upon that subject are exceptionally clear and emphatic. From the days of the Phoenecians and Tyrians, mastery of the sea has been won and held by the nation which could furnish the greatest number of skilled and valorous seamen. No nation has ever developed a sea power unless it furnished the seamen from its own population. No nation has long retained sea power after its men quit the sea.

"Ships alone have never won a battle, and the fruits of naval victories are easily dissipated unless the victors are backed by a sufficiently numerous seafaring population in their home land. For in the final analysis sea power is in the seamen. Vessels are but the seamen's tools. And tools have always belonged to the races or nations who can use them most effectively."

Women's Wage Law Outlawed by Court

Washington, Nov. 11.—The court of appeals of the District of Columbia outlawed the District of Columbia women's minimum wage law, passed by congress several years ago.

In setting aside the law Justice Van Orsdel said:

> "There is no leeway for legislative or judical discretion. A fundamental principle is involved; and it does not lie in the courts to declare a law fixing the wages of women constitutional and a law fixing the wages of men unconstitutional. The moral stimulus in the one instance is no greater than in the other."

The refusal to see any difference between setting wages by law for men and the same procedure for women was not accepted by the United States supreme court in 1908 when it upheld the Oregon 10-hour law for women. In that case the supreme court denied that the 10-hour law interfered with workers' liberty to contract, under the federal constitution. The court said this liberty "is not absolute and extending to all contracts, and that a state may, without conflicting with the provisions of the fourteenth amendment, restrict in many respects the individual's power of contract."

The supreme court further declared "that women's physical structure and the performance of maternal functions place her at a disadvantage in the struggle for subsistence is obvious."

The court held that woman "is properly placed in a class by herself, and legislation designed for her protection may be sustained, even when legislation is not necessary for men and could not be sustained."

The District of Columbia court of appeals ignores this refusal of the supreme court to place men workers and women workers on the same plane.

FOOD PRICES GO UP.

Washington, Nov. 11.—Between September 15 to October 15 food prices increased in 26 representative cities, reports the United States bureau of labor statistics. Philadelphia led with a 4 per cent gain.

A 3 per cent gain was recorded in Cleveland, Newark, New Haven, Providence, Scranton and Washington, D. C. In Bridgeport Columbus, Denver, Jacksonville, Kansas City, Little Rock, Manchester Seattle and Portland, Me., food prices increased 2 per cent, and in Cincinnati, Detroit, Memphis, Norfolk, Omaha, Peoria Richmond and St. Paul 1 per cent. Chicago and Milwaukee increased less than five-tenths of 1 per cent.

CHICAGO & ALTON SUED.

Chicago, Nov. 11.—The Chicago & Alton railroad is sued for $598,912 by the stockholders of the Kansas City, St. Louis & Chicago railroad, a line leased by the Alton. Officers are charged with entering into an agreement by which stockholders of the leased line lost the amount claimed. The Alton road is now in the hands of a receiver, who is former President Bierd. Recently this official demanded of the railroad labor board that the eight-hour day be abolished in the interest of efficiency and service to the public.

SELECT CINCINNATI.

Cincinnati, Nov. 11.—The executive council of the International Union of Journeymen Horseshoers have selected this city for the next convention.

PICKETING UPHELD.

New York, Nov. 11.—Supreme Court Justice Wagner has ruled that striking jewelry workers have the right to picket.

PET BUSINESS TERM MEANS BLOCK HEAD

Washington, Nov. 11.—When business men say they are "hardheaded" they overlook the humor of the term, which "means nothing so much as block-headed," writes President Gompers in American Federationist, current issue, on the New York chamber of commerce proposal that citizens be finger printed.

In suggesting that a branding iron instead of finger printing be used, President Gompers said:

"An idea which once makes its way to the interior of 'hard heads' is maintained with great tenacity and is modified with extreme difficulty. The more loudly a person proclaims himself a 'hard-headed' business man the less likely it is that he possesses the breadth and elasticity of mind necessary to permit a proper valuation of general information and a proper modification and growth of viewpoint as additional information is acquired.

"'Hard-headedness' and 'fixity of purpose' often go together."

LIBEL ON LABOR STANDS.

Philadelphia, Nov. 11.—The public press has not corrected false statements it made when it announced that striking railroad men deserted their trains on the desert, says John A. Voll, editor of the Bottle Maker.

"Has President Harding corrected the falsehood in his message to congress or attempted to repair the damage? He has not to our knowledge up to this writing. This is only another episode in the contention between capital and labor in which capitalism uses its power of false propaganda to crush a righteous cause, as it did in the steel strike, and later exposed by the interchurch world movement.

"But, it is said, what good is the expose after the damage has been done, the cause crushed or defeated? It focuses the minds of the people upon the underhanded methods of big business, and brings it a step nearer to the day of reckoning. It also gives conclusive proof of the power that big business wields over the press and in government, and thus sets the people to thinking of ways and means to curb and control it."

MORE CLASS LEGISLATION.

San Bernardino, Cal., Nov. 11.—The city council has passed an anti-picket ordinance which is framed so it only applies to striking railroad shop men. These unionists show that Mayor McNabb signed the measure without giving it consideration.

The ordinance was urged by the Santa Fe railroad.

The city is overrun with private detectives and guards who are associating with the sheriff and the city police. Organized labor is demanding that the thugs be run out of the city. Instead, officials of the Santa Fe railroad and local business men hold conferences with them on methods to combat the strike.

PLEASE USE OUR FANCY NAME

Rock Island, Ill., Nov. 11.—Publicity agents of the Rock Island railroad are using the term "replacement workers," instead of strikebreakers.

The scheme is to use it as often as possible so that unconsciously the public will accept it.

The publicity agents will be thankful if labor editors and trade unionists generally will use their fancy name for the ordinary breed of strikebreakers.

BROOM MAKERS GAIN.

Chicago, Nov. 11.—The International Broom and Whisk Makers' union has renewed agreements with every union label shop in the United States. In many cases improved working conditions have been secured. The union has issued new charters to Norwich, Ontario and Louisville, Ky.

STRIKES WOULD BE OUTLAWED BY FEDERAL COURT'S DECISION

Kansas City, Mo., Nov. 11.—In a divided opinion the federal court of appeals has ruled that when a strike interferes with the manufacture of articles intended for interstate commerce, such strike is illegal. In a minority opinion Judge Stone declared, in effect, that if the decision is upheld it will outlaw every strike.

The decision is made in the case of several St. Louis leather manufacturers and their organized leather workers, who suspended work when they were refused a wage scale and improved working conditions. The strike was so effective that the employers asked Federal District Judge Wade to issue an injunction against picketing on the ground that the strikers were interfering with interstate commerce. The court refused but later issued the injunction.

The United Leather Workers' International union aided their St. Louis members in appealing the decision to the federal court of appeals, which now sustains Judge Wade. In upholding the lower court, Judge Sanborn said:

> "Manufacture of articles contracted or intended to go into interstate commerce constitutes part of same. That where the purpose of the conspiracy is to prevent the manufacture of such articles, the inevitable effect is to interfere with interstate commerce."

The leather workers announce they will appeal this decision to the United States supreme court, which has repeatedly made a clear distinction between production and transportation.

The supreme court made this distinction when it set aside the federal child labor act of 1916, which prohibited the products of child labor entering interstate commerce. In that case (Hammer versus Dagenhart) the court said:

> "The making of goods and the mining of coal are not interstate commerce, nor does the fact that these things are to be afterwards shipped or used in interstate commerce make their production a part thereof."

In the case of Coe versus Errol (116 U. S., 517) the supreme court also drew a sharp line between production and transportation. This case revolved around the right of a state to tax logs intended for export. The court said that while the logs were intended for export the owner has a perfect right to change his mind, "and until actually put in motion, for some place out of the state, or committed to the carrier for transportation to such place, why may they not be regarded as still remaining a part of the general mass of property in the state?"

The court further stated that "until actually launched on its way to another state, or committed to a common carrier for transportation to such state, its destination is not fixed and certain."

In these cases the supreme court takes a position in sharp contrast to the court of appeals, which rules that because a strike makes it impossible for an employer to manufacture articles intended for interstate commerce, that this strike is a violation of law.

MINE GUARD KILLINGS STARTED HERRIN MOB

New York, Nov. 11.—"Both men were unarmed and were at least 1,000 yards away from the mine on private property. The news of these killings ran all across the county, a sputtering fuse that finally led to the explosions of wrath on the following day."

The above is one of the "high points" in a dispatch to the New York World from McAllister Coleman, who wires from Marion, Ill., of conditions preceding the Herrin mob.

"When the strike had been called in April, the Illinois miners had come out to a man," said the newspaper correspondent. "The normal economic life of all southern Illinois had come to a dead halt.

"Nevertheless, W. J. Lester, of Chicago, president of the Southern Illinois coal company, which operated the strip mine between Marion and Herrin, decided to go on with the work of stripping his coal to prepare it for shipment. Steam shovels are used in this type of mine to strip earth and rocks from the coal which lies near the surface.

"Instantly word spread around Williamson county that the Lester strip was working. Local officials from nearby unions went over to see what was going on. They were halted by a guard on a road leading into a mine which has been regarded as public for years.

"Coal and iron police and mine guards employed by the operators, familiar enough in the Pennsylvania and West Virginia fields, were unheard of in Williamson county.

"Operators and union heads parleyed to no purpose. All the while, wherever miners came together, the word was passed, 'they're bringing gun men into Williamson.'

"On Tuesday, Jordan Henderson, a miner and union man, went to a house on the public road leading from Marion to the Lester mine to ask for a drink of water. As he stood at the door he was shot by a bullet from an automatic rifle fired from over the top of the high buck wall on one side of the mine. Joseph Pitchovic, another union miner, hurrying to Henderson's assistance, was shot dead in the same manner. Both men were unarmed and were at least 1,000 yards away from the mine on private property.

"The news of these killings ran all across the county, a sputtering fuse that finally led to the explosions of wrath on the following day."

CAN'T BEAT 'EM.

Washington, Nov. 11.—When the railroad shop men's strike was at its height, rail managers assured the public: "Poof! This is nothing. Business as usual."

Now these managers intend using strike losses to maintain high freight rates.

Reports by "hard-boiled" eastern rail managers who led the fight show that for September their operating expenses increased 13.7 per cent over those of the same period in 1921. The cost of the strike is made more impressive by the added statement that in September the roads expended $120,000,000 for maintenance of equipment, an increase of 15.7 per cent over the same month a year ago.

PRICES AND PROFITS JUMP.

New York, Nov. 11.—The American smelting and refining company has advanced lead prices a fraction of a cent per pound. This trust recently divided a bond issue of $7,500,000, bearing about 5½ per cent interest among "insiders." In advertising the bond issue, merely "as a matter of record," the trust said:

"During the past 10½ years the company has charged off to depreciation and depletion $37,651,339.82, and has paid $77,259,244.35 in cash dividends."

WANT INJUNCTION ENDED.

Chicago, Nov. 11.—Attorneys for the railroad shop men asked Federal Judge Wilkerson to dissolve the Daugherty injunction. Blackburn Esterline, assistant attorney general, objected and his honor is considering whether the nation will survive if he "gets off the lid."

SIGN HERRIN CONTRACT.

Herrin, Ill., Nov. 11.—The local Retail Clerks' union has signed an agreement with merchants.

LONG WORK DAY URGED BY CHICAGO & ALTON

Washington, Nov. 11.—The confidence railroad managers have in the railroad labor board is indicated by the Chicago & Alton's request that the eight-hour day be abolished, said President Gompers. The Alton is in the hands of a receiver.

"That the Chicago & Alton should ask the railroad labor board to authorize lengthening the work day to 10 hours for train service and yard men, and should ask for abolition of time and one-half for overtime, is not startling news," said President Gompers.

"Why should not the railroads ask for whatever they want, after the amazing encouragement they have had from the august assemblage presided over by Judge Hooper?

"Surely it is time the railroad labor board was scrapped. We shall see what the board will do with this outrageous request, a continuance, clearly of the great union-hating drive of organized predatory power. But we wait with little hope of justice or reason. The leopard cannot change its spots and the railroad labor board is not likely to change the character of its decisions.

"The past conduct of the board is perhaps an indication of what may be expected in this case. Every development since the board began to function proves the falsity of the concept upon which it was established. The whole institution is wrong in theory and reactionary, oppressive and destructive in practice.

"As long as attacks of this character are made upon the labor movement it is impossible to give full attention to constructive work for the betterment of industrial life and the advantage of all of our people. The sooner the railroad labor board goes the better for America. Liberty and progress are not safe while that institution survives."

TEXTILE WORKERS OUT.

New York, Nov. 11.—In referring to a wage strike of textile workers employed at Charlotte, N. C., President McMahon, of the United Textile Workers, said:

"No northern 'agitator' was present to encourage this walkout, so the company will be at a loss to place the blame when making public statements. We know the cause of the trouble, not only in this mill, but in every mill in the south. The whole trouble in the cotton mills of the south, as well as the north, is that the workers have remained passive too long under low wage and long hour conditions.

"Capitalists are investing their money in the mills of the south because of the great dividends paid. These dividends are paid by whom? By the blood and the lives of the unfortunate 300,000 who toil and sweat in these hell holes to eke out a miserable existence."

SEWING MACHINE PROFITS.

New York, Nov. 11.—The Singer manufacturing company will issue a stock dividend of 33 1-3 per cent. This will increase the capital stock from $90,000,000 to $120,000,000. The company has nine sewing machine plants in this country and other parts of the world. The company has made a remarkable record of cash dividends the last 20 years that has ranged from 7 per cent to 100 per cent. The 100 per cent cash dividend was paid in 1899, the year prior to the declaration of a 200 per cent stock dividend. In most years, however, cash dividends ranged between 10 and 20 per cent.

"NOTHING TO ARBITRATE."

Cincinnati, Nov. 11.—The shoe manufacturers' association has revived the "nothing-to-arbitrate" stand of a Chicago business man, nearly 30 years ago. Officers of the Boot and Shoe Workers' union, in Boston, asked the employers for a conference in the hope that a long strike in this city would be adjusted. The bosses wired back that a conference would be useless.

WILL "TAB" SEAMEN.

New York, Nov. 11.—The American ship owners' association will adopt the new continuous discharge books for members of crews. The owners say these books safeguard ship owners by recording continuous service. The seamen declare it is a system of finger-printing.

BIG BIZ PLOTS TO SMASH ALL IMMIGRATION BARS

Washington, Nov. 11.—A survey conducted by the American Federation of Labor proves that the stories of a labor shortage in this country are false.

The survey shows that these stories are circulated by newspapers published in cities where men are tramping the streets in their search for work. From the Atlantic to the Pacific, from the Lakes to the Gulf of Mexico, comes the same story of men looking for work.

Information on the alleged shortage of labor has been received from nearly 200 city central bodies, located in every state, in answer to a request by Frank Morrison, secretary of the A. F. of L., that these labor organizations furnish the A. F. of L. "the very best information you can in regard to unemployment in your city."

In every city reporting except one, a labor surplus is recorded. Kankakee, Ill., does not report a surplus, but states that "the supply is about equal to the demand."

Some of the letters support their claim of a labor surplus by including newspaper clippings in which the increasing activities of local charity organizations is recorded.

Most of the letters are bitter toward propagandists who would create the impression that a labor shortage exists, and who are heartless and blind to present conditions which they would intensify.

The following excerpts from letters from various sections are indicative of the general tone of all the letters:

Boston—"There are thousands out of work here."

Los Angeles, Cal.—"There is apparently about 10,000 unemployed in this city."

Minneapolis—"About 1,200 unemployed here. No scarcity of labor in any industry."

Portland, Ore.—"In no industry is there a scarcity of labor."

Detroit, Mich.—"There is a line up in front of every employment agency in the city. The mission houses are full. More men are seeking employment at local factories than can be used by them. There is a big oversupply of common labor and considerable of a surplus of skilled workers in Detroit."

Philadelphia—"A fair estimate of the unemployment in Philadelphia at present is approximately about 15,000 people."

Houston, Texas—"There are plenty of mechanics and hundreds of common laborers looking for work every day here."

Pittsburgh, Pa.—"There is no material labor shortage." This letter states that steel mills shortage is because men refuse to work long hours for low wages. Men are being brought from south but do not stay.

Alexandria, La.—"There are two men for every job and work is awful scarce here."

Atlanta, Ga.—Reports show that even building craftsmen are unemployed despite the big building program that has been on.

St. Louis, Mo.—"There is no sign of labor shortage in this locality. We are looking for the number of idle workers to increase as the winter months roll around."

Seattle, Wash.—"There will be no less than 5,000 men here out of work unless they go elsewhere for work."

Bellows Falls, Vt.—"There is no shortage of labor here."

San Antonio, Texas—"There is a large number of skilled labor idle in this city. As to unskilled labor this city is flooded."

Milwaukee—"There is no industry here that has a shortage of labor."

Spokane, Wash.—City free employment bureau is quoted: "Still plenty of unemployment in Spokane." City central official estimates between 500 and 1,000 unemployed.

Youngstown, Ohio—This central body reports that steel mills cry labor shortage and force men to undergo a physical examination. Low wages, which make it impossible to live, is the rule. Men appear at the factory gates but are not employed.

Dayton, Ohio—"There are about 4,000 unemployed here. Manager of state-city free employment bureau here places it at 3,000."

Kenosha, Wis.—"There is unemployment galore and we expect same to be worse a month from now."

Trade Union Fined For Picket's Action

Cincinnati, Nov. 11.—Common Pleas Judge Roettinger has fined the Boot and Shoe Workers' council $100 and costs because a picket became involved in a controversy with a strikebreaker and struck the latter.

The court declares that it recognizes the doctrine of union liability—"that a labor union is an entity, and as such is responsible for the actions of its officers, agents, servants and employes."

The court, therefore, finds the shoe workers' council guilty of violating the orders of the court, and guilty of contempt.

The court's ridiculous policy can be appreciated when it is recalled that if an employe of a business firm was instructed to do a lawful thing, and while doing so violated the law, for this act the employe would escape punishment and the employer would be penalized.

This is the position taken by Judge Roettinger, who is receiving the plaudits of plunderbund and other forces that believe in class legislation and a class judiciary when workers are involved.

GUARDS KILL WORKERS.

Chicago, Nov. 11.—M. W. Martin, editor of the Blacksmiths' Journal and chairman of the Hammond defense fund committee, announces that a legal battle will soon be staged in Federal Judge Anderson's court at Indianapolis, when private guards and city police of Hammond will be arraigned in the Hammond, Ind., murder cases.

Striking employes of the Standard steel car company were attacked by the Hammond city police and the company's private guards. The posse shot into a crowd of workers, killing four and seriously wounding 20 others.

The workers say the Standard steel car company, controlled by the Mellon interests, Wall street and bankers, will be well supplied with finances to care for the accused.

GIVES $500 BOND.

Calgary, Alberta, Canada, Nov. 11.—As one of the conditions for securing an agreement with a moving picture theater in the city, the operators had to reinstate a former member who was a brother-in-law of the manager of the theater. As the union has had considerable trouble with this individual, he was forced to give bond in the sum of $500 that he will not act as strikebreaker for five years.

COMMODITY PRICES UP.

New York, Nov. 11.—The index number of average commodity prices on November 1, prepared by a commercial agency, shows the highest and most general advance of any month since the long decline in prices came to an end with June, last year.

BARBERS FIGHT DISEASE.

Rochester, N. Y., Nov. 11.—Organized barbers in this city are waging a campaign against disease-breeding shops. These places ignore the first rules of sanitation.

TRUST HEAD DEFENDS "PITTSBURGH PLUS"

Washington, Nov. 11.—"Pittsburgh plus" was defended by Judge Gary before the federal trade commission.

Under "Pittsburgh plus" a steel mill located at Duluth, within 60 miles of rich iron ore fields, must add to a customer's bill the freight cost of the steel from Pittsburgh to Duluth, though the steel was manufactured in Duluth and never saw Pittsburgh. This puts the trust's mills in Pittsburgh on an equal footing with Duluth mills, and the public pays for this unnecessary cost. Millions of dollars are annually taken from the public by a system which, Judge Gary says, "exists, so far as I know, for the purpose of fixing a quotation price."

If "Pittsburgh plus" did not exist, northwestern buyers of steel, for instance, would patronize steel mills in that section because of their proximity to the Minnesota iron ore range. This would mean lower costs for steel, as freight charges would be low. Now when a ton of steel is sold, the buyer must pay an additional price equal to the freight charge of that ton of steel from Pittsburgh. As the trust has a monopoly on the iron ore it can enforce "Pittsburgh plus," while efficiency-mad editors conveniently overlook this gouge that runs into millions of dollars.

Judge Gary told the federal trade commission there is no such thing as competition. There is "always good natured competition," he said.

STANDARD OIL PATRIOTISM.

New York, Nov. 11.—John D. Rockefeller, jr., recently stated that America should be congratulated for "not paying tribute to a foreign oil corporation, because of the development and successful management perfected by the Standard oil company."

Which causes the New York World to say:

"We fear that even the 100 per cent American motorist, as he pays his 50 per cent gasoline bill, becomes sadly adulterated by internationalism. To him it is a matter of deplorable indifference whether he is fleeced by a foreigner or plucked by a patriot."

POTTERY FIRMS YIELD.

East Liverpool, Ohio, Nov. 11.—Seven firms controlling eight plants in Ohio, West Virginia, Pennsylvania, New Jersey and California have renewed one-year agreements with their sanitary pottery workers, officials of the National Brotherhood of Operative Potters announce. Other firms, it is stated, have agreed to the old rates. The strike was caused by the employers' attempt to cut wages.

RAIL EXECUTIVE DIES.

Philadelphia, Nov. 11.—Thomas De Witt Cuyler, president of the association of railway executives and director of the Pennsylvania railroad and numerous other corporations, died suddenly in a private railroad car in this city. Deceased was a lawyer and a financier. He was active in opposition to the shop men's strike.